**September Meeting****Friday, September 16
7:30 pm**

Otto Gonzales**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA**Otto will give a presentation on BART
radio communications.**Presidential QRM****By Trevor Hall, WA6JAU**

At the August meeting we had Dodie Katague, Deputy DA for Contra Costa County. Dodie talked about identity theft on the Internet and we had entire families attend. It was great seeing everyone and we would like to do more presentations not related to radio that would be interesting for the entire family. If you can think of any subject you would like to hear let me or one of the officers know.

Cynthia Burnham, KG6GHJ, won the FT60R and looked very happy about it. We have more exciting prizes for future meetings. Congratulations Cynthia.

We are still looking for the 2006 officer candidates. Make a difference in the club and run for office. The past five years I have been an officer have been very entertaining and rewarding. Your club needs you, step up to the plate.

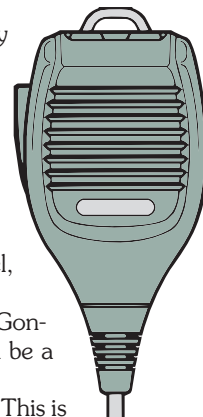
PACIFICON is just around the corner and the committee is ready for an exciting event. Double your weekend enjoyment and stay at the hotel, there are rooms still available but they are going fast.

Our next meeting is September 16, 2006 and our speaker is Otto Gonzales who will be talking about BART Radio Communications. It should be a very interesting presentation.

Remember that the picnic is at John Baldwin Park on September 24. This is a real family event, so please plan on attending and meet a great family group.

I have received many requests for training of setting up an HF station properly. This is not a license class, so if anyone would like to teach a class to assist new hams please let me know.

Have a great month and I hope you had a great labor day holiday.

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Amateurs Respond to Crisis on Gulf Coast

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 6, 2005—More than 800 Amateur Radio operators from all over the US have signed up to aid the Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery effort now under way along the US Gulf Coast. At this point, an estimated 200 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers en route, on site where they're needed or in the pipeline for processing and deployment. In addition, Amateur Radio manufacturers have been stepping up to donate radio equipment for use in the field. Icom already has committed to providing 250 handheld VHF transceivers and 35 HF transceivers for emergency use, while Heil Sound Ltd has offered to provide headsets for the units. Other manufacturers and suppliers also have pledged to donate antennas, accessories and hardware. The American Red Cross asked ARRL September 2 to issue a call for qualified Amateur Radio volunteers to help out at more than 250 shelter and feeding station locations, and the amateur community responded in force.

"More and more people are committing to go," said ARRL Assistant to the CEO David Patton, NN1N, who's been a prime coordinator of the Katrina response at ARRL Headquarters. Patton says a major task at this point is matching up Amateur Radio resources not already committed to Red Cross sites with other relief agencies that also need communications. Meanwhile, as volunteers begin arriving from all parts of the US, the ARRL urges that no one head out into the disaster zone without an assignment.

A lot of the volunteers who responded to the Red Cross appeal are gathering initially in Montgomery, Alabama, for deployment to sites where they're most needed. Others, particularly those arriving from the west, are being directed to specific sites.

Continued on page 3



Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@gardnerclan.net or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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General Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2005

President Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. There were about 25 members and guests present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Dick Schulze, AA6DL, reported that the treasury contained a total of \$38,437.56 in all accounts (money market, certificate of deposit, and checking account).

Trevor noted that the Club budget needed to be amended, and that Club approval was needed for an additional expense. Approximately half of last year's *Carrier* expense was paid in this year, but not budgeted. Thus, the *Carrier* budget needed to be adjusted from the carry-over figure of \$650, to \$1900 to reflect last-year's half plus this year's full expense of approximately \$1200. The Club approved the adjustment and expense.

Trevor reported that nominations were needed for Club officer positions, and that the offices of Vice-President and two Directors had no candidates as yet.

Dick Brown, KT6X, noted that VE testing earlier had resulted in one upgrade, two elements passed, one general, and one from 0 to Extra. The new Extra is Roland Williams, VE6ANE, ex-GW4BGD.

Dick reminded everyone that the PACIFICON Board would meet in the morning for updates.

Trevor announced:

- The Walnut Creek preparedness fair on Sept. 11 (talk-in possibly on 145.68).
- The MDARC picnic on Sept. 24, from 11:00-3:00, with lunch from 12:00-1:00, at John Baldwin Park, in Concord.
- A League guest, Ti-Michelle Connelly, NJ6T, ARRL EB Section Manager.

President Trevor Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m., for a break before the speaker, Deputy District Attorney Dodie Katague, Lead Attorney for the Hi-Tech Crime Unit of the District Attorney's Office, speaking on the subject of Internet fraud.

After the interesting and timely talk, Cynthia Burnham, KG6GHJ, won the door prize of the FT60R.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary

Ramblings from the Editor

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

Last month's *Carrier* seemed to go out on schedule—and without a glitch—well, almost. As you'll recall, Kinko's made a mistake the previous month and we ended up mailing 160 copies of the May issue in July. After speaking to the manager and asking for (and getting) a refund of the July printing costs, he assured me the problem had been corrected and the mistake wouldn't happen again.

When I went to pick up the issue, the top two copies in the box were the correct month (August), but all the rest were the June issue! Two days later all was well. We'll see what happens this month...



Amateurs Respond to Crisis

Continued from page 1

ARRL Alabama Section Manager Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, the main point of contact at Montgomery, already had registered 42 operators through the Red Cross. Volunteers have turned out from as far away as Washington and Oregon, New Mexico, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Ontario, he reports.

"It is major confusion, major chaos, and we're not even in the disaster area," Sarratt told ARRL today from a former Wal-Mart building. "We've got people coming in from all over the US—they're trickling in. Some are bringing communication trailers. The response via e-mails and phone calls has been tremendous."

Difficult, Rewarding Work

The Red Cross has indicated its primary needs are in Mississippi, Alabama and Northern Florida, but ARRL anticipates volunteers will be needed in Louisiana and Texas as well, not only by the Red Cross but by other relief organizations.

"This will be a difficult job—but it also has to be a rewarding job," volunteers are being told in a communiqué that went out to those being given the go-ahead to proceed to the Montgomery marshaling area. "This is likely the assignment for which you have prepared."

But Amateur Radio volunteers are also cautioned that duty in the wake of the Hurricane Katrina disaster will be "generally a hardship assignment" that will involve working in shifts and living in shelters. Just how long the Red Cross and other relief organizations—including The Salvation Army and local emergency management—will need the services of Amateur Radio volunteers remains to be seen. Anyone considering volunteering also should make sure their vaccinations for such diseases as tetanus, diphtheria, "childhood" diseases such as measles, mumps and chicken pox, and possibly even hepatitis B are up to date.

Amateur Radio in Action

Many flood refugees already have been relocated from Louisiana to Texas, radio amateurs were being requested over the weekend to help at the Houston Astrodome, now home to some 12,000 evacuees. South Texas Section Emergency Coordinator Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, says Harris County EC Hal Merritt, KD5HWW, is scheduling 24 operators a day for around-the-clock duty at the Astrodome and the Reliant Center next door, as well as at the Harris County EOC.

"There are teams operating in Covington and Washington Parish, Louisiana, supporting local emergency management, command and control, Red Cross and other relief operations," Reimer said. "In Mississippi, there is a desperate need for operators in the coastal counties."

Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator Gary Stratton, K5GLS, told ARRL that ARES has been using WinLink 2000 in Covington, Louisiana, to pass e-mail via HF during the emergency. Stratton said John Wagner, WA5VBP, was flown into New Orleans to equip Mayor Ray Nagin's office with WinLink for emergency communication. A Georgia Baptist group—the Chattahoochee Baptist Association, W4CBA—has fielded a WinLink operation in eastern Mississippi.

Local ARES/RACES teams already have volunteered to assist at other refugee relocation sites. These include the old bar-

racks at Ft McClellan in Anniston, Alabama—which has been given the code name "Starship."

"The Calhoun County ARES/RACES group will provide emergency communication and health-and-welfare reports for the evacuees," reports Calhoun County Emergency Coordinator Randall Landers, KG4EUD. He's asking all radio amateurs in the area to assist in communication.

In San Antonio, Texas, Jim Brown, WA5UMY, reports a group of radio amateurs from the Montana Baptist Convention set up over the weekend "Field Day style" at another refugee relocation site at the former Kelly Air Force Base. They plan to handle health-and-welfare traffic and other communication needs for evacuees.

Until he sent much of his ham gear out of harm's way, ARRL Life Member Tom Miller, AC5TM, in New Orleans, was on the air running phone patches and emergency traffic on HF. A city employee, Miller—whose house remains under six to eight feet of water—now is at a pumping station attempting to remove water from those parts of the city that flooded when levees burst. "It's been very chaotic here," he told ARRL. "I've never seen so many helicopters in my entire life." Miller expressed special appreciation to the SATERN net, the Intercontinental Net and the Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) for their assistance.

ARRL Staffer En Route to Hurricane Zone

Among those heading through the Montgomery staging area on his way to Mississippi's Gulf Coast is ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV. He's carrying along a complete HF station that includes a 1 kW amplifier, plus supplies and shelter.

"Somewhere between here and Mississippi, there's a demarcation zone, and it's kind of a gray area," Motschenbacher told ARRL today. "Everything on this side of it is normal. And somewhere as you drive the four hours to a likely shelter site in Louisiana or Mississippi, the world changes, and it goes from this place here where I just had a McDonald's hamburger to where people have no food."

SHARES, SATERN Join Forces

SATERN National Director Pat McPherson, WW9E, reports that the federal SHARES (ShAred RESources) network—a collection of government, military and Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) radio stations—has joined forces with SATERN to help with the Hurricane Katrina response.

"SATERN continues to help with emergency communications to and from the impact area devastated by Katrina and has received to date over 48,000 requests for assistance," he said. "The addition of the SHARES network will provide an opportunity for The Salvation Army to talk on federal frequencies to agencies about the task of helping in the disaster and bring additional support to the task before us."

Ham Radio Making a Difference

Sarratt says Amateur Radio is making a difference. "It's making a huge difference," he emphasized, although the need continues. The word he's received from Mississippi is that Harrison County and Gulfport are totally devastated. "They just called me. They want 10 more amateurs a.s.a.p. Right now I don't have 'em."

Fortunately, most of those showing up in Montgomery have come prepared, like Motschenbacher, with their own gear and supplies, so they can be reasonably self sufficient during their

RACES Training Schedule August-September 2005

Date	Location	Subject
September 17	Martinez Marina Park, Martinez	Potluck & Transmitter Hunt
October 15	San Ramon – Marriott Hotel	PACIFICON – Various Topics
November 19	Oakley - Driftwood Yacht Club	Digital Modes
December	No Training	No Training

Be sure to verify the time and place of training on the countywide RACES net on the Thursday evening prior to the event. The countywide net airs at 7:20 PM on 147.735 Central County, 145.410 South County and 145.490 West County.

stay.

For his part, Motschenbacher says, his plan is to come back to Connecticut with essentially nothing but the clothes on his back. He says his wife, Lieska, sent some laundry detergent along with him so he can wash his clothes and give them to someone who needs them. His extra shoes will remain behind as well.

"She says, 'I don't want to see any of this when you come back. It belongs down there with somebody.' So when I leave, I'm going to leave it all with somebody."

Powerful Solar Flare Disrupts HF Communication

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 7, 2005—One of the largest solar flares on record occurred today as a very active solar region 808 produced a powerful X17.1 flare—a "severe" or R4 event on NOAA's R1 to R5 scale. NOAA's GOES-12 satellite observed the flare at 1740 UTC. R4 events typically occur about eight times during each 11-year solar cycle, and today's was the fourth largest in 15 years.

"This event created a complete blackout of high-frequency (HF) communications on the daylight side of Earth," NOAA's Space Environment Center (SEC) reported. "Communications used by emergency services along the Gulf Coast may have experienced problems due to this flare. Low frequency navigation systems may also have experienced a period of significant degradation." R4 events also can disrupt satellites.

The effects of the X17.1-class solar flare began at 1717 UTC, peaked at 1740 UTC and ended at 1803 UTC. X-ray flux exceeded M5 at 1726 UTC.

A very bright and fast coronal mass ejection was observed, but the material was not Earth directed. An S1 to S2 is expected following this eruption, but it won't begin until late today or early September 8.

Over the past two weeks, the same active region of the sun has produced a series of significant solar eruptions as it made its passage around the back side of the sun. "Significant eruptions are expected in the coming days," the SEC said. "Agencies impacted by space weather storms may experience disruptions over the next two weeks. These include spacecraft operations, electric power systems, HF communications, and low-frequency navigation systems."

As of 2030 UTC, the SEC was reporting minor (R1) radio blackout conditions. That means weak or minor degradation of

HF radio communication on Earth's sunlit side and occasional loss of radio contact.

Solar activity is expected to be moderate to high. Old region 798 is rotating onto the visible disk and is expected to significantly increase solar activity levels.

The September 7 event drove the Boulder 24-hour running A index up to 15 between 1500 and 1800 UTC. The Boulder K index for the same period was 3.

More information is available on the SEC Web site.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 12	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Carl's Jr. 2280 Oakgrove, Walnut Creek
September 16	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
September 24	11:00am-3:00pm	Annual Picnic	John Baldwin Park
September 30		October <i>Carrier</i> Deadline	
October 3	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Carl's Jr. 2280 Oakgrove, Walnut Creek

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